

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

YOSHII et al

Atty. Ref.: **1858-25**

Serial No. **09/770,634**

Group: **1623**

Filed: **January 29, 2001**

Examiner: **Krishnan**

For: **SELF-CROSS-LINKING ALKYL CELLULOSE
DERIVATIVE, PRODUCTION PROCESS THEREFOR,
AND USE THEREOF**

* * * * *

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.131

Sir:

The undersigned, **Fumio YOSHII, Tamikazu KUME and Tadashi MURAKAMI**, hereby jointly declare and state that:

1. We are the same individuals who are named coinventors of the subject matter disclosed and claimed in the above-identified application.
2. The subject invention as claimed in the above-identified application was completed in Japan, a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) at least as early as June 23, 1999, as evidenced by the attached copy of prior -filed Japanese Patent Application No. 11-177517 (hereinafter "the JP '517

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application") which was filed on that date. A verified English-language translation of the JP '517 application is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

3. Specifically, it will be observed that the Examples in the JP '517 application evidence an actual reduction to practice in Japan of the present invention as claimed herein. Moreover, such Examples represent actual reductions to practice of the claimed invention herein prior to the filing date of June 23, 1999 of the JP '517 application.
4. All of the events noted in the Examples of the JP '517 application attached hereto as Exhibit A were actually conducted and occurred in Japan prior to June 23, 1999.
5. I declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Respectfully Submitted,

December 11, 2002

Date Signed

Fumio Yoshii

Fumio YOSHII

December 11, 2002

Date Signed

Tamika Kume

Tamikazu KUME

December 03, 2002

Date Signed

Tadashi Murakami

Tadashi MURAKAMI